

January 7

Ecclesiasticus 27:4

“Trash Detection”



**As when one sifteth with a sieve,
the refuse remaineth, so the filth
of man and his talk.**

When one filters (separates & carefully examines) all of the fanciful & lofty words, exaggerated accounts, and grandiose talking of a person, the filth (vulgar, foolishness, warped and/or wicked thinking) is left to be revealed for what it is.

This verse is about actively listening. It is wisdom regarding discernment of what people say as opposed to what they are really thinking and feeling.

Here, we have a simile of sifting, for example, flour. Using a mesh, hand-held sifter, one shakes the culinary utensil which has been filled with cooking flour. Back and forth the flour is shaken. As that is done, a thinner amount of flour drops beneath the sifter.

However, not all of the flour falls. Lumpy bits of flour stay in the sifter. In cooking, that portion is considered inedible; it's the bad part. That "refuse" remains.

That's "the filth" of a person's words. It just stays there as trash. It is through careful listening—listening with **spiritual ears**, that one is able to separate what is good from what is bad.

For real Believers, the Holy Spirit is the ultimate trash-detection system.

Just as a sifter detects, so to speak,
the good flour from the bad flour
and
leaves
the bad
flour
remainin
g plainly
recogniza
ble, so
does the
filth of a
person
and the



filth of a person's words. It all
remains. It all can be clearly seen.

With godly spiritual ears, one can
detect what is the "trash" of a
person.